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PHOENIX CELEBRATES VETERANS, INDEPENDENCE WITH PATRIOTIC BUS

“Flag Bus” to run from Armed Forces Day through Independence Day

(PHOENIX) May 16, 2004: This summer, the City of Phoenix Public Transit Department will send a specially decorated city bus parading through Phoenix neighborhoods. Phoenix’s **“Flag Bus”** will be covered with the stars and stripes both inside and out, a nod to veterans, independence and freedom.

The bus will be introduced on Armed Forces Day – Saturday, May 21 – to a group of military veterans at 11 a.m. at the Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center Nursing Home Care Unit, located on 7th St. north of Indian School. Here military veterans will see the bus for the first time and be chauffeured on board to Christo’s Restaurant at 6327 N. 7th Street for a complimentary luncheon hosted by the restaurant.

“We want to celebrate those who have served our country, as well as the freedoms we enjoy as Americans,” said Mayor Phil Gordon. “The Flag Bus is a small token of our appreciation for veterans and others who have ensured our freedoms.”

The group of Veterans that will celebrate the launch of the bus will include representatives from World War II to Vietnam, Desert Storm, Afghanistan and Iraq.

“The Flag Bus will bring a little bit of patriotism to our city,” said Peter Van Haren, Deputy City Manager and chair of the Mayor’s Veterans’ Commission. “It will be seen all over Phoenix by motorists, pedestrians and transit passengers, reminding us of the great country in which we are privileged to live.”

The Flag Bus will be used on many different bus routes within the city of Phoenix from Sunday, May 22 until July 8. A schedule showing which routes and when riders can catch the Flag Bus is posted on www.phoenix.gov/publictransit. The cost per ride for full adult fare is \$1.25; seniors and youths are 60 cents and children under 6 are free.

For other transit information, contact Valley Metro transit information at (602) 253-5000. Persons with text telephones can call (602) 261-8208.